

MONTIANO MEETING NOTES - JANUARY 13, 2008



On January 13, 2009 the City of Auburn Mayor and City staff met with neighbors of the Montiano residents at the Lakeland Hills Community Center, 5801 Lakeland Hills Way SE, to discuss concerns.

Staff in Attendance: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS, COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT ASSISTANT KIRSTEN REYNOLDS, POLICE CHIEF JIM KELLY, TRANSPORTATION PLANNER CHRIS HANKINS, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANAGER SARAH MILLER, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICER ANDY GOULD AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF K-12 STUDENT LEARNING FOR THE AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT ROD LUKE

Community Members in Attendance: CHRIS MARSHALL, TRACEY McCALLISTER, KELLY AND NITIN CHEPRA, ANDY CAMERON AND LATISHA CUEVA

Welcome and Introductions:

Mayor Pete Lewis welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and asked City staff to introduce themselves. The Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Student Learning for the Auburn School District, Rod Luke, talked about developing a new three-year strategic plan focused on district improvements and improving learning for all students. The District is holding community forums and sending out surveys in utility bills for parents, students and community members; these surveys are available both electronically and in hard copy formats.

Mayor Lewis indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was for the City to listen to the residents' concerns, respond to questions they could answer immediately and identify items for follow up. The City takes notes of the meeting, which are then sent out to the attendees. The following topics were discussed:

- ***Mayor's Update*** -- residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.

General Questions/Comments

- ***Can recycling be picked up more than once every two weeks?***

A possible solution suggested was to contact Murrey's and ask for a larger recycling container. Auburn has three different garbage haulers in Auburn who make their own schedules. Waste Management has the bulk of the city. Both Lea Hill and West Hill are under a contract with Allied Waste and the Pierce County portion of Lakeland Hills is serviced by Murrey's Disposal. If you are having trouble with your collection, make sure to contact your waste hauler for more information: www.murreysdisposal.com/default.html.

Police Related Questions/Comments

- ***What should residents do about door to door solicitations?***

Door to door sales may be a front for criminal activity. The Police advised against signing up for anything they are selling; to prevent people from knocking on your door residents can install a no soliciting sign.

- ***If you have a problem or see anything suspicious call 9-1-1!***

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 9-1-1. The citizens of Auburn own the 9-1-1 system. You should call 9-1-1 whenever you have an emergency, feel something suspicious is going on, need to speak with an officer or file a report (online reporting is also available http://www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Citizen_Online_Police_Reporting.asp if you would prefer to file your report that way). **PLEASE NOTE:** If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an “Auburn Call Receiver.”

Auburn shares ownership of the 9-1-1 system with other South King County cities and the calls go to a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. When you call 9-1-1 it will be answered by a “Call Receiver.” The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be made for your call.

If you want to know what the officer finds out be sure to let the Call Receiver know you DO want to be contacted by the officer when they've completed their investigation.

In addition to emergency issues, residents should also call 9-1-1 for non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. An alternative is to report them via the City website. The link is under Online Services at the top of the page and is called Online Citizen Report (half way down): http://www.auburnwa.gov/Business/public_works/Online_Citizen_Report.asp.

- ***Can residents report illegal parking?***

Residents can call 9-1-1 and the report will get dispatched to the appropriate officer. The Police Department hired an additional Parking Enforcement officer last year. District Patrol officers can still issue citations for parked cars. Cars parked within five feet of driveways are also considered illegally parked.

- ***Several vehicles have been stolen from the neighborhood.***

Police Chief Jim Kelly explained that auto thieves typically come from within three blocks of the actual neighborhood having the problem. Auto theft is a high priority; Auburn has been working with the prosecutor's office to increase the penalty for the theft of vehicles. In the Auburn area stolen vehicles are typically recovered in Auburn; Police are finding that stolen vehicles are used for transportation or to commit a crime.

A few tips offered to help eliminate car theft included:

- Do not leave cars running in the cold.
- Put all valuables away; don't leave anything in plain sight.
- Criminals also look for personal information and garage openers so put these items out of sight.

- ***What is Block Watch?***

Block Watch is built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. If you think “maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this,” you should. Residents were encouraged to set up a Block Watch. Once the group is formed, Community Programs Officer, Andy Gould, will come out and do the formal training on what to watch for, how to react and how to get neighborhood participation. Groups are encouraged to get together several times a year to maintain an active group.

A few tips offered to help eliminate criminal activity:

- Keep outside lighting on, such as a porch light or motion sensor lights.
- Know your neighbors.

- ***Can residents volunteer with the Auburn Police Department?***

Auburn has excellent opportunities for people interested in volunteering. The Citizen's Academy is a free 11-week comprehensive program designed to introduce the public to the Auburn Police Department. The program includes patrol, investigations, narcotics, K-9 and a host of other police operations topics. This program will include a tour of the police dispatch center and the police academy. The Citizens Academy is open to any Auburn citizen 18 years or older. Applications are available at the Auburn Justice Center and at www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/How_to_Get_Involved.asp.

Streets/Sewer/Traffic Related Questions/Comments

- ***How is the PhotoSAFE program working?***

The group discussed Auburn's PhotoSAFE system; Mayor Lewis explained the law states these cameras are only allowed to be installed at warranted railway intersections, in school zones and at certain traffic intersections. Mayor Lewis noted there has been a 40% reduction of accidents and not one fatality accident in the PhotoSAFE intersections since the cameras were installed. It was also clarified that while gross receipts from the system were over \$900,000 in 2008; costs to pay for installing and administering the system were over \$740,000. The Auburn City Council took action to ensure the net proceeds from PhotoSAFE would go towards neighborhood traffic calming improvements in Auburn's communities; approximately \$165,000 has gone toward local traffic calming improvements such as stop signs, speed cushions, traffic circles, and school zone flashing lights in 2008.

- ***What is being done to alleviate parking in Downtown?***

Parking in the Downtown is extremely limited because of construction projects and more commuters utilizing Sound Transit at the Auburn Station. Auburn has worked with Metro, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit on offering a shuttle service leaving from Lakeland Hills Sunset Park. The service started in the spring of 2009; the ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 9th to mark the opening of the new shuttle. A shuttle in the Lea Hill area will likely follow if the Lakeland Hills shuttle is successful. Mayor Lewis will continue to meet with Pierce Transit in efforts to get bus service in and around the south part of Auburn.

It has always been intended that Sound Transit build another 450-stall parking garage on the C Street side of the railroad tracks; with the passage of the Sound Transit's ballot measure last fall, it might actually happen sometime in the future. The 100 parking spaces for permit only were originally paid for by a majority of the downtown businesses when the garage was built. The City asked if some of them could be leased back to rent out to commuters and that's currently being done. The City also added some additional surface parking areas for commuters to use.

- ***Why are the streets not being swept?***

A complaint was made regarding cars parking on both sides of 66th and Nathan Street; staff will look at this area for access and safety. Mayor Lewis agreed there is a need for increased education regarding on-street parking and the effects on street sweepers. Future efforts will be made to inform residents of the set street sweeping schedules; following will be an education campaign if cars continue to park in the streets they will get ticketed

Emergency Management

- ***Disaster Preparedness Presentation***

Emergency Preparedness Manager Sarah Miller gave a brief presentation regarding programs citizens can participate in to prepare their homes, families and neighborhoods in case of disaster. Ms. Miller talked about Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); this training is comprised of 24+ hours of classroom education over an eight week period where hands-on practice in topics including first aid, triage and survival skills is taught. Classes are free and basic safety equipment is provided.

Another program discussed was Map Your Neighborhood (MYN). The MYN program helps get neighbors together and meet with purpose; neighbors are taught how to get organized before a disaster happens. Neighborhoods need to be self-organized and willing to meet and share information together as a group.

Generalized disaster preparedness training is also available to interested community groups and organizations. This is a 90 minute presentation that covers general disaster preparedness information, community resources and local hazards information. Residents were encouraged to sign up for Auburn Alert; this system registers individual phone numbers that will be contacted in case of a disaster.

To schedule any of these classes for your neighborhood, contact the Emergency Preparedness Office at 253-876-1925 or e-mail emergencyprep@auburnwa.gov; you can also visit their website to see a schedule: <http://www.auburnwa.gov/disaster>.

Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items

1. Parking Enforcement will look into complaint about cars parking on both sides of 66th and Nathan Street; this area will be looked at by Public Works for access and safety.
2. Neighborhood information will be given to Community Programs officer Andy Gould to schedule Block Watch training for the group.
3. Police will gather crime stats for this neighborhood and will be given to the residents who attended the neighborhood meeting.

Community Services Team contact information:

- Duanna Richards, Community Services Manager, 253-931-3099 or drichards@auburnwa.gov
- Kirsten Reynolds, Community Services Project Assistant, 253-876-1964, or kreynolds@auburnwa.gov